

Yamuna Action Plan

Under Yamuna Action Plan Government of India shall be receiving financial assistance from Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) to the tune of Japanese yen 17.773 billion for the period December, 92-December, 99.

[English]

Pollution Cases

2112. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that more than 1500 pollution-related cases have been gathering dust in various courts in Gujarat for the last 15 years or so;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such cases in other States which are pending for more than 10 years ; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken for early disposal of those cases?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Kaziranga and Manas National Parks

2113. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the long term management plan of the Kaziranga and Manas National Parks in Assam;

(b) the financial support required for this purpose ; and

(c) the assistance given by the World Wide Fund for Nature for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Kaziranga and Manas National Parks in Assam do not have long term management plans. Their management is being guided by annual action plans and the financial support required is also being assessed on annual basis.

(c) The World Wide Fund for Nature has so far committed Rs. 4.30 lakhs for Kaziranga and Rs. 2.10 lakhs for Manas National Parks.

[Translation]

Funds For Plantation

2114. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) The quantum of funds allocated for the plantation programme during 1996-97, State-wise;

(b) whether all the States have spent these funds;

(c) if so, whether the Government have received any complaints of irregularities in spending these funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Normative Cost of Sugar Mills

2115. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from the Government of Maharashtra requesting them to accept the revised normative cost of the 27 sugar mills sanctioned in the Seventh Plan;

(b) whether the Government have taken any decision in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (d) The Government have not prescribed any normative cost of sugar factories though the financial institutions while assessing the projects have been going by a certain standard taking into account the financing pattern and the prospect of return on capital. The financial institutions are generally concerned with the debt-equity ratio and the financial viability of the project. Since the State Governments contribute a large part of equity of the cooperatives and also have to guarantee the loans, the question of availability of total finance for a particular unit has to be resolved between them, the cooperative and the financial institutions.

Inclusion of Districts in Maharashtra

2116. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently Maharashtra Government has sent any proposal for including the Belgaon and Kaarwar Districts into Maharashtra State ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation of Militants

2117. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to recruit surrendered Punjab militants in police and para-military forces; and

(b) if so, the policy of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Food Subsidy Bill

2118. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India purchases foodgrains for the Central Pool at the Government fixed price;

(b) whether FCI issues grains to public and various agencies at subsidised rates ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) whether the Food Subsidy Bill is in the increase during the last couple of years ; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Central issue prices of wheat and rice for distribution through the targetted Public Distribution System w.e.f. 1.6.97 are as under :

	Rs. per kg.			Wheat
	Common	Rice Fine	Superfine	
B.P.L.	3.50	3.50	-	2.50
A.P.L.	-	6.50	7.50	4.50

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Subsidy on foodgrains represents (i) the difference between the Economic Cost of foodgrains

and their issue prices, and (ii) carrying cost of foodgrains. While economic cost of foodgrains has increased mainly because of increase in the pooled cost of grains as a result of increases in MSP/naked cost of grains, the issue prices have not increased correspondingly. There have also been increases in the carrying cost because of increase in interest charges and increase in freight rates etc. Following important steps have been taken/are being taken by the FCI to reduce/contain the economic cost and carrying cost:

- (i) Making continuous efforts to achieve the average capacity utilisation of 75% even though the procurement of grains is seasonal.
- (ii) Adhering to the procurement and movement ratio norm of 1:1.35 as fixed by Government to reduce the expenditure on freight.
- (iii) Non-filing up of entry level posts to reduce the administrative cost and increase productivity;
- (iv) Making continuous efforts to reduce shortages in handling of foodgrains ;
- (v) Release of stocks in open Market at prices above the Central Issue Price for PDS.

[Translation]

Central Assistance for Agriculture in Haryana

2119. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have provided assistance to Haryana for the development of Horticulture and Floriculture since 1990 ;

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance provided by the Government during each of the last three years ;

(c) whether the State Government has utilised this financial assistance for which it was provided;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether his Ministry has conducted any monitoring to ensure proper utilisation of Central assistance ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Assistance to the State under the Central schemes for development of horticulture is being provided since 1990. Assistance for the Central Scheme of Floriculture is being provided since the commencement of the scheme from 1992-93.